

SU News

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
Psalm 119:105



Summer of Mission



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🟡 Missions Edition | Summer 2018

Life, Love & Hope for a Young Generation

SUSA
Scripture Union South Australia

From the Director

The Mission continues as Les Dennis (Missions Coordinator) and I visited and provided support to our five beach mission events. We both felt that a specific standout, was the absolute God given energy and heart of volunteers being part of teams, who wanted to share their faith with children and families who were either on vacation, or who live within the communities where missions were held.

From Tumby Bay to Kangaroo Island, all the teams worked hard and well to reach out to the children and their families through a variety of fun activities. There were concerts, drama, movies, magicians, craft, songs and the list goes on. It takes many hours of planning and preparation before they even hit the ground and it never ceases to amaze us the dedication of beach mission volunteers.

Tumby Bay has a fantastic local team which is supplemented by a good crew of young adults from Adelaide. This year they hit new highs with 191 children attending, not to mention the many parents they also connected with. Les helped with training and support over a 3 day period.

I spent 3 days with the KI team, meeting locals, making connections and learning just how things are done on KI. It is a unique and challenging place for mission and I believe that SUSA has been called by God to work with the churches there to reach and teach about Jesus.

All of our volunteers and especially our team leaders, do an amazing job. In some cases whole families 'do mission' together and enjoy living in Christian community. Perhaps you should join a beach mission team for 2019.

I was asked once if beach missions are old fashioned and have had their day. I could not disagree more. Australians need the gospel as much as ever and people are still open to hearing the good news. This year we saw more children and families attending across our five missions than we have for many years and there are plans for a new inland mission.

This is not a time to pull back but a time to push forward as we keep sharing the life, love and hope that can only be found in Jesus.

Chris Battistuzzi

Chris Battistuzzi
Executive Director



From the Chair



I am sure that many people who deserve Australia Day honours are not included in the annual list of recipients. Those who volunteer and are involved in the running of Family Missions (Beach Mission) are surely amongst that group who are worthy of such an honour.

Where do you find a group of both adults and young people prepared to give a week of their holidays (let alone weeks of preparation in the months before) to plan, organise and be involved in the lives of a large number of children and parents? Who in this day and age pays for their own travel, accommodation and any materials needed themselves, and count it a privilege? Stunning!

The answer is, of course, those involved in leading Scripture Union Family Missions.

At a recent mission I was present to see one such team in action. A mission in an isolated place where those children and young people who came were pretty well all locals and around half of them from non church-going families. The skill and enthusiasm of the leaders was impressive.

But it is the stories one hears standing around chatting to parents and other local leaders that touch the heart. Stories of a couple of young boys who have come from a very difficult background and are now being nurtured by a grandparent who speaks of the transforming love of Christ that has changed the boys so that they have a palpable hunger to know more about Jesus, now want to go to school and have hope for the future. And not surprisingly, this has changed the grandfather too!

Praise God for those with a heart to touch the hearts of children and families with what we know to be the Good News.

Pray that people will continue to be raised up to bring that word of life and hope to families and children – and pray for those who will financially support this ministry. Amen to that.

Vivien Bleby
SUSA Council Chairperson



Cutting the 150th cake are: Iain and Ros Kilpatrick, Glenn and Cecily Cupit, and daughter of H A Brown. (H A Brown was a very early SUSA staff member)

The SU 150th was a special thanksgiving celebration acknowledging 150 years of SU ministry. This celebration was open for all SUSA supporters (past and present).

Over 120 people filled the Trinity Baptist Church Colonel Light Gardens on a lovely Spring afternoon for dinner, entertainment, fun and games. The event turned out to be a great opportunity to reunite with long-lost friends.

A very special thank-you is extended towards our President Kevin Hull, his wife Raelene Hull, and the entire Hull family for their tireless efforts in preparing and catering on the night.

Can we futureproof SUSA?



When faced with an uncertain future and how to proceed, God brought to David all that he would need to fulfil God's purposes and plans for him. We need to trust that God is in control and we need to seek to understand the times that we are facing.

You would have to be an ostrich with your head in the sand not to realise that Australia is significantly changing. Society, morality, culture and values are more diverse than ever and continuing to change. The Christian faith is shrinking in numbers, finances and influence. *Christian ministry is being opposed more than ever.*

But this is not a time for doing less, in fact it is the opposite. It is a time for Christians to stand up for Jesus, to make the good news known and to represent the values of God's Kingdom more than ever before. This is why we need men and women who understand the times, and know what we should do.

At SU we are earnestly seeking to understand these times and discern what God wants us to do. We have tried many things to raise finances but each year we drop back a little more. We have seen amazing blessings from God through bequests and unexpected donations. But as you would understand, we can't budget on the unknown.

Sadly we need to cut back staff hours to a point that will reduce the ministry we are able to do. We have economised wherever possible. We have staff who sacrificially work more than they are paid for. We have hundreds of wonderful volunteers who give up their time and money to do God's work. But the truth is we can't sustain things as they are.

The SU Council and myself have been consulting, praying and discussing in depth for many months, just what the future looks like for SU. This is an ongoing area of development and we will let you know as things change. For now, please be assured that our greatest priority continues to be our mission of sharing the good news of Jesus with the young people of South Australia.

66 ... men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do...

1 Chronicles 12:32

I believe that this is a time of stripping back, restructure and refocus for SUSA. Perhaps God has new plans He is yet to reveal? We are seeking to discern this. Perhaps God is allowing all of this for a brighter future to unfold? We will keep serving faithfully as we work and wait to see what God brings.

What can you do?

Number 1 is always to pray. Pray that we are doing what God is calling us to do. Pray for the resources, people, finances and wisdom we need.

Number 2 is to speak up for SU in your church, among friends and spread the word about the great ministry we do.

Number 3 is to ask, seek and knock among your contacts, church, family and friends to help us gain new financial supporters. It could be as little as \$5 a week. Could you help us find new supporters who want to see the gospel shared with young people?

Number 4 is volunteer. In whatever way you can if you can. On an SU ministry team, in schools, camps, missions or in the office. Perhaps you have the skills to join our Council and help guide the organisation? Or to be a regular advocate for SU in your church? Contact us to find out how you can be involved.

Number 5 is to review your own financial support to SU. Each year our costs go up. Salaries go up, bills go up. How long has it been since you increased what you give? Can you increase your own giving?

I believe that the work SU does is truly lifesaving work and that the children of SA need this ministry more than ever. Now is not a time to shrink back and do less. It is a time to take stock, to review and to seek wisdom. Now is a season in the life of SUSA to understand the times and discern what we should do.

Chris Battistuzzi
Executive Director



A love for Jesus

We're always interested in hearing from individuals who love Jesus and want to tell people all about Him. If that's you, have you thought about joining a team?

Countless children and their families have come to learn of God's love for them through the many years of SU ministry. From beach missions to schools and camps, SUSA has always strived to take the good news of Jesus to the young people of South Australia.

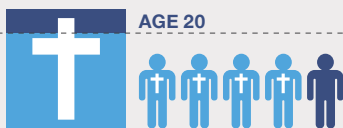
Consider the joy awaiting everyone who believes. Join a team today. The mission field awaits you.



For more information on how you can join a team and help share the great news about Jesus, call 8235 9500 or email info@susa.org.au

Age of Decision

4 in 5 first time decisions for Jesus occur under age 20.



The importance of gospel ministry to young people.

Total population & church attendance

Population growing yet church attendance shrinking

How Australia's engagement deficit towards active faith and church attendance has impacted church growth.



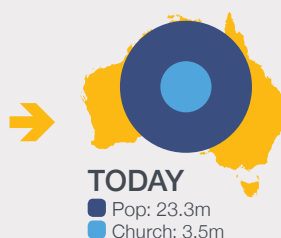
Christianity
↓ 22%



Church Attendance
↓ 48%



No Religion
↑ 269%



Summer of Mission



Tumby Bay

A pirate themed SU Kids Holiday program saw 191 children register for the week, a record number! We praise God for his goodness and provision, and for the ability of each team member to cope. The program ran smoothly thanks to the Holy Spirit at work.

The kids joined in the fun with Captain Yo Ho as we had pirate dress ups, singing, Bible stories, drama and crafts. A morning tea and bouncy castle ensured everyone who came had a great time.

Our daily story of the pirates who didn't want to be pirates anymore identified with the Apostle Paul who realised that what he was doing was wrong, and turned his life around to follow Jesus.

After hearing of Jesus' death and resurrection a few children went home to read it for themselves. They returned wanting to know more! We pray God will water those seeds of salvation.

Some local children asked if there was a Sunday School or Kids Club nearby, so they could experience more of what we do on SU Family Mission. A large number of Bibles went home with the kids at the end of the week.

Highlights for the week were the annual sandcastle competition and the Family Fun Day on the Tumby Bay oval. Various games and activities were capped off with a free BBQ and ice blocks.

That evening almost 350 people came to watch the various age groups present songs and items of what they had learnt during the week.

For the first time in many years we held an Evening Youth Event every night. About 20 Junior Teens had fun of their own with games, bouncy castle, coffee shop hang-out, a movie night, discussion groups and team members sharing their story.

We pray that God will bless this ministry and grow it in the future.

All this is done for free and we wish to thank all the volunteers and especially the parents, Tumby Bay businesses and community for their fantastic support and encouragement in making this event happen.

Dale & Grantley Telfer



Kangaroo Island

SU Beach Mission on Kangaroo Island provided some wonderful examples of how missions impact in the lives of children.

As a team building exercise, we took coloured strips of paper and decorated them to represent ourselves, then weaved them together to show ourselves together as a team. One strip - the green one that has been cut away to narrow at one end - had the team member's weaknesses and sin covered up by the other strips, showing that as a team, we cover and support each other.

A boy who had a rough childhood was now living with his grandfather, after being taken from his drug addicted mother. One craft activity was to decorate a plate and rather than sports or animals, he chose the bread and cup from the Last Supper.

On our last day two children attended, a boy with quite severe autism and his sister. The boy's carer was very pleased with how he settled - he wasn't running outside or trying to climb on the roof, allowing his sister the chance to relax and be a girl having fun.

Another girl who regularly comes each year, missed the last three days and wanted to know what happened. We shared the Last Supper story and some crafts when we caught up with her at the end of the week, once the program had finished.

These are just a few examples of how SU Missions provide for special needs children and kids at risk. Jesus said "Let the children come to me".

Having completed their third SU Beach Mission on Kangaroo Island, Pete and Julie Calvert will hand over their leadership to new leaders, who will lead this mission next year.

The Calvert's want to explore the opportunity to establish a mission at Mannum. They have a long history of building mission teams such as Port Vincent, Moonta and more recently, Kangaroo Island.

Pete & Julie Calvert



TUMBY
BAY

MOONTA

PORT
VINCENT

KANGAROO
ISLAND

VICTOR
HARBOR



Port Vincent

The Port Vincent Beach Mission meets in the Institute Hall just opposite the beach and a short walk from the Caravan Park.

Fewer children attended this year, because the team's usual location was double-booked. This unforeseen complication required an alternative solution, with very little time to spare.

Never the less the great team and local support team were outstanding in conducting the mission on the days available. Re-connections were made with young people who grew-up when the mission Teen Tent was located on the foreshore, just down the road from the Institute Hall.

The Teens Escape Tent operated the full week and was open each afternoon with a semi-structured range of activities with a brief Bible message. The tent was then open every night as a drop-in centre that included a number of options, food and casual narratives from people who gave their testimonies.

The team leaders in their notes highlight some great stories and experiences including:

- A child was observed reading the bible at the beach that she was given from the resource table.
- A young local girl, who has been coming to mission for years, came to the teen's tent for the first time. She was really keen to take a Bible and a reading plan. She even sat down outside the tent straight away to read it! She comes from a non-Christian family.
- One boy said he wasn't interested in 'God Stuff' but is interested in sound tech, so might go to a local team members church to learn sound tech.
- One girl from the Riverland (who is a Christian) was able to re-connect with a teen's team member who lived and worked there for a while. She was able to encourage her in her faith.

Darren Sanderson, Anya Kutchen and Louise Fielke

Victor Harbor

It was another incredibly successful year of mission at Victor Harbor. We re-branded and called ourselves 'The Big Tent' which is how we've been referred to for as long as anyone can remember.

The team was small but of exceptional quality. We can boast several faithful team members who have been on a beach mission for over 20 years, 4 new team members and a returning member, all who faithfully answered God's call to be on the team. We even had the SU Chair returning to missions, regaling us with stories of mission before many of us were even born!

All of the team were actively involved in ministry throughout the week, building relationships with many children. Our child leaders were wonderful and shared God's love to other children in a way that cannot be done by adults.

Participants in the morning and afternoon programs ranged from 3 to 18 years. 250 people attended the evening programs, which were open to all ages with grandparents attending.

Unfortunately we did not have the people resources to run a program for the 9 to 12 year old kids. Although they were invited, they felt they didn't belong in either the older or younger programs.

The encouragement from this was the very obvious need for a ministry to this age group. Many of them spent time with us in the evening programs expressing their disappointment at not having a program specifically for them.

The 9 to 12 age group are the new teens of today. At this tender age they're already making decisions that shape their future. Please pray for more leaders so we can build this group.

We have a huge ministry ground and if you are excited to sacrifice and serve with us we would love for you to join us in 2018-19. Oh and by the way, we have an absolute ball! It is the most fun thing I do each year and my kids would be devastated if we didn't attend!

Emma Shaw, on behalf of Team Leaders Petra Hunt and David Folland.

Moonta

Moonta Mission was my first beach mission and I found it to be a really positive experience. The opportunity to share the good news with kids and see them engaging in the program was really exciting.

It was great to head down to the local caravan park on the first evening where we put on activities and were able to connect with some children and families. It was nice to provide some laughs and smiles and let people know we were around for the week.

Throughout the program there was a great mix of learning and fun through stories, scripture, dramas, games and activities. You could see the kids appreciated this and couldn't get enough- (some wished the program went longer!). It was encouraging to see them enjoy themselves and take something away from it.

Aside from being involved in the program it was awesome to get to know the others in the team. I enjoyed the mix of spending time in fellowship, having fun at the beach and being able to chat and enjoy one another's company.

It was a quality week spent serving in many different ways alongside an amazing group. A valuable and beneficial experience-thanks to all who made it so!

Aajiah Jericho

Creative Arts

Driving along Sir Donald Bradman Drive you might just catch a glimpse of SUSA's newest project on the wall of Adelaide West Uniting Church.

Our newest project called 'Artscape' has been developed by the Creative Arts Network and is SUSA's latest initiative, designed to foster relationships between churches and schools.

Artscape is a schools based murals ministry. It has been in development for over the past year, and we are pleased to announce the first of what we hope are many more murals to come.

We've developed a collection of mural designs based on biblical ideas such as 'Treat others the way you wish they'd treat you' (Luke 6:31) or 'Sometimes the easy road isn't the right one' (Matthew 7:13).

The plan is to allow interested schools the chance to choose a mural that aligns with their student wellbeing framework. Once a mural is chosen, a team of local church volunteers begin working together with a group of hand picked students.



The result is a team effort producing a giant sized mural on school grounds. In November we got to show it works! In one week, nine volunteers turned a computer based design into a giant sized mural.

Thanks to Adelaide West Uniting, everyone who passes that way can catch a glimpse of the "Mustard Tree" (inspired by Mark 4:30-32), and interested schools can get an idea of how great the finished murals can look.

Lochy Cupit
Creative Arts Network Coordinator



The Creative Arts Network 'Mustard Tree' on the Adelaide West Uniting wall.

Faith & Manhood Campference



Faith and Manhood Campference
March 16th-17th

Guest Speaker:
Richard Fay, CEO of Centre for Men,

Register here:
<https://form.jotform.co/80240480552853>

Men love to 'fix' problems. So what problems are we looking at? Men face many challenges, often without the close support or network of other men. They're doing it alone. For too long, many have struggled to become the leaders and men of faith they inwardly desire to be.

Men are eleven times more likely to be incarcerated as women, three times more likely to suicide and far more likely to commit violence, often against those they love. Barely half as many men graduate from university than women.

Men are left with only one 'masculine' emotion: Anger. Their alternative is to acquiesce and hand over raising children to women.

This is not your ordinary problem and can't be fixed with rational thought alone. But it is a problem and must be fixed, nonetheless.

Historically all communities intuitively knew how to help boys make that transition into manhood, making faith and commitment to their community central.

Statistics reveal that only 39% of church goers are male. It seems 'The Church' is not a place where men perceive can really help them journey into manhood.

Richard Fay, CEO of Centre for Men, will help us relearn how to be custodians of passing faith and manhood on to the next generation of men.

If you're involved in helping boys become men of faith, this campference is for you.

Hamilton McNicol
State Youth Projects
Coordinator



Leaving a Legacy

Many people whose lives have been touched by SU are so deeply grateful for it's ministry that they couldn't imagine a world without it.

Did you know that you can leave a bequest to SUSA in your will? By leaving a bequest you provide opportunity for ongoing ministry, enabling future generations to hear about God's love for them. Please consider including SUSA in your will.



Contact Leanne at SUSA office on 8235 9500 or email info@susa.org.au for more information.

“When David went home to be with his Lord... it was his delight to help the work continue by making a bequest to SU.” - Kay Crawley



BWO & SU Partnership

Almost 200 hundred youth and leaders again gathered to serve from 3 bases (City East, City West, and Hills) in the third week of January.

It was a week where the thermometers exceeded 40 degrees, but that didn't stop teams from finding great activities to serve their communities.

There were well over 50 service events from backyard blitzes to painting schools to making candles for a local charity.

Alisha Banks, who oversees the whole Big Week Out event, travelled from base to base throughout the week. She said,

"There is a real sense of God's whole body in action". The media team captured it well when they said that each person just feels like one body part in action but when you see the videos/photos and take a step back you can see that God's whole body of the church was in action during the week, serving and shining his light in so many different areas."

A coordinator from a local nursing home commented on the value she saw in BWO visiting. "Seeing the love within the young people, hearing about their churches, and their upbringing and listening to the music, it means so much to the residents. Not all the residents have families, so they become part of their family...it's beautiful".

“There is a real sense of God's whole body in action... serving and shining in so many areas.

BWO was so meaningful for a couple of the participants that they chose to be baptised in front of their BWO base, family, and church for a special event on the Wednesday night.

Hamilton McNicol
State Youth Projects Coordinator



East Base

It has been such a great week of service for the participants and leaders of the East Base.

We battled the heat and went out across our fair city to wrangle some difficult backyards, cheer up some city commuters, hand out some cool icy treats and so much more!

One team got put to work in the kitchen at CitySalvos and made 100 meals for homeless and disadvantaged people in our city.

We had 12 service events running and 7 out of those 12 were newly formed connections! Our prayers for alternative events were answered - Our God is so faithful and always in control. There are not enough words to describe how good this week has been.

Gods' presence and guidance has been evident from the moment our teams began meeting, way back in August 2017.

Michelle Foong
East Base Leader

West Base

Overall, it has been a great week and we have been blown away by how God works through his people - regardless of age - to build his Kingdom in our local communities.

With the heat encouraging us to send participants and leaders out to new places in the community, we were able to build new relationships and form connections for service which we will be able to return to in future years.

After one of our leaders noticed a post on Facebook asking for help, we sent a team of participants to help with the kid's program at the CMS Summer Encounter. This was an answer to their prayers for help, and our prayers for somewhere cool to serve.

We are overwhelmingly thankful to God for providing for us during the week, and keeping everyone safe, healthy and motivated during the hot conditions.

Ryan Halyburton
West Base Leader

Hills Base

We've seen God move in some pretty amazing ways this week, and it's been an absolute honour to serve Him. He's answered many of our prayers to ensure this week was a success, and nothing would have happened without Him.

There has to be a big thank you to all of our leaders, participants, local supporting churches, speakers and prayer supporters for everything they contributed this week.

Your involvement and support means so much, and it's great to see so many people banding together to grow God's Kingdom through service.

James Lee
Hills Base Leader



At Risk

In the week surrounding the New Year's celebrations I travelled to Port Augusta to co-lead a children's program for the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship National Convention.

It was a fantastic week where Aboriginal children from all over Australia got to hear the message of Jesus. Some of these children come from extremely disadvantaged home lives and it is such a joy to support the Aboriginal Community in this vital ministry.

Members of the Aboriginal Berean Church, ASPICC (Aboriginal South Pacific Islander Christian Community) and from various churches in Adelaide made up a brilliant and enthusiastic team.

As a result I am in the early stages of conversation with two churches in Port Augusta, about hosting holiday programs for local Aboriginal children during school holidays. To have two local churches come together for this ministry would be fabulous.



I believe it is now time for non-Aboriginal Christians of Australia to stand alongside their Aboriginal brothers and sisters... to bring healing to this 'Great South Land.'

Pastor Don Heawood, Aboriginal Berean Church

My heart is to continue building relationships between the Aboriginal Christian community and the wider church.

I believe the Aboriginal Christian community is so valuable in how it can reveal Jesus to the rest of our country. God is moving in the Aboriginal community. Please pray for them, that they would be greatly encouraged.

Cherith Harvey
At Risk Kids Ministry



Farewell Anita

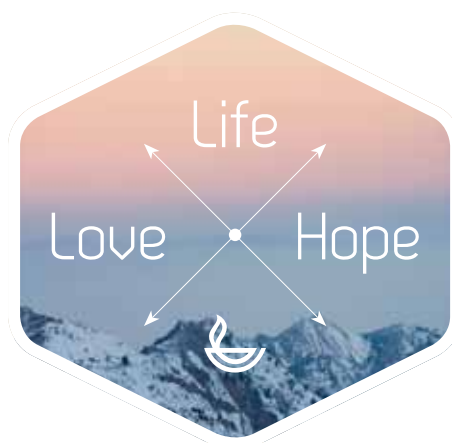


The staff, volunteers and wider community of SUSA were very sad when Anita Mahood resigned from her position as our Administration and Finance Support person.

Anita worked part time for SUSA for 9 years. She has wonderful gifts in organization and attention to detail and God brought to Anita two new part time positions suited to her gifts and skills.

We will miss Anita greatly, but true to her nature, she has already informed us that she will be back helping as a volunteer with our Mailout Team.

We all have long lasting friendships with Anita and are very excited as to what God has in store for her. Thanks Anita you have been, and are, a blessing to us all.



Behind the scenes

So much happens behind the scenes of SU Ministry that it often goes unreported. I thought it timely to update you with two very significant changes... 'Update' being the operative word.

The changes, we believe, are part of God's preparing SUSA for the next level. A bit like 'pruning' a vine to produce more fruit.

Firstly, we've moved our accounting program from MYOB, to Xero. Xero is a very simple accounting program, offering significant benefits to SUSA.

Unfortunately the switch hasn't been as smooth as we had hoped. Xero has highlighted just how complex our existing accounting system is, and therefore how much change is needed in order to simplify it. Good news is that we are moving forward on this.

Secondly, I'm very excited to announce we are preparing to move towards a new CRM (Customer Relationship Management) system called 'Profiler'.

What is a CRM? At its simplest definition a CRM (Customer Relationship Management) system allows organisations to manage relationships and the data and information associated with them.

Just like Facebook and Twitter, a CRM system is similarly built around people and relationships. A CRM is an important tool for any organisation. Think of it as a 'Swiss army knife' of databases: It does more than one thing.

Profiler will replace the current database 'Open Arms' which is almost 20yrs old and affectionately referred to by SU staff across

the nation as 'Broken Arms' because of its limitations. I hope you will agree that SUSA is well overdue for an upgrade.

We hope to make the switch before Easter.

As with any change, it will take some time before things are operating smoothly. **With this in mind, NOW would be the perfect time to update your details.**

If you have changed your address, email or phone number, please contact Leanne on leanne@susa.org.au to update your contact details.

Arthur Economides
Marketing & Communications



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14 Adele Avenue, Kidman Park, SA 5025

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